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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Biological Technical Assistance Group (BTAG) in New Jersey

Dealing with Challenges

New Jersey has over 100 Superfund sites on the National Priorities List; the nation's list of the worst hazardous waste sites. Each site has a unique combination of biological, hydrological, geological and chemical characteristics that must be considered in designing a cleanup. To help site managers deal with these challenges, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established regional groups of scientists with different backgrounds. These groups are called Biological Technical Assistance Groups or BTAGs.

What does BTAG do?

Advise site managers to ensure proper consideration of ecological impacts when designing cleanup activities

Provides information on contaminant effects on fish and wildlife

Provides leadership in protecting natural resources during cleanup activities

How does BTAG accomplish its goals?

Identifies fish and wildlife resources living in and near Superfund sites

Interprets data resulting from investigations to determine contaminant problems and impacts on fish and wildlife

Assists the US EPA in selecting environmentally acceptable remediation by reviewing and providing comments on proposed cleanup activities

How does the public benefit?

Natural resources are protected while sites are cleaned up

Fish and wildlife resources are restored for public enjoyment

Will we always need BTAG?

The release of contaminants into the environment will always be possible and new Superfund sites will likely be the result. However BTAG's actions will continue to help clean up these sites and reduce the number of contaminated sites in New Jersey. The effective enforcement of existing environmental laws and the Service's continuing commitment to protect the environment will help ensure the future of our natural resources.

BTAG in New Jersey is comprised of Representatives from the:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection